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12 January 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Director of Global Issues

FROM:   
Chief, Geography Division, OGI

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SUBJECT: Meetings of the Antarctic Policy Group and  
Interagency Group on Oceans Policy and  
Law of the Sea

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1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum summarizes for your information the results of the IG Meetings held on 11 January at the Department of State, which were chaired by James L. Malone, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental Affairs (OES).

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2. Background and Conclusions: The Antarctic Policy Group met to review US policy on antarctic mineral resources in preparation for the resumption of negotiations on an antarctic minerals treaty by the 16 Antarctic Treaty consultative nations at the Department of State 17-28 January. The Policy Group agreed to recommend to the NSC that the US delegation to the negotiations continue to be guided by the instructions provided for the previous negotiating session, which was in Bonn in July 1983. These instructions call for a regime that 1) assures non-discriminatory access to antarctic mineral resources for US firms, 2) creates a stable legal and political framework for carrying out mineral development, 3) provides for security of tenure to mining claims, 4) contains rules favorable for development of antarctic mineral resources, and 5) assures protection of the antarctic environment.

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3. The question of allowing observers to attend the mineral negotiations and other meetings of the consultative parties was also discussed. State favors allowing attendance by the 12 non-consultative members of the Antarctic Treaty, but in a tightly controlled, non-decision-making capacity. State hopes that this

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SUBJECT: Meetings of the Antarctic Policy Group and  
Interagency Group on Oceans Policy and  
Law of the Sea [REDACTED]

25X1

will help dispel the idea widely held among Third World nations that the consultative parties form a secretive, rich man's club bent on stealing the common heritage of mankind. State also hopes that this will attract more adherents to and support for the Antarctic Treaty, thereby countering an effort underway in the UN aimed at placing Antarctica under UN control. Treasury prefers that no observers be allowed to attend, fearing that their presence would slow negotiations. The two departments agreed to resolve their differences before 17 January. [REDACTED]

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4. The Interagency Group on Oceans Policy and Law of the Sea met to review US policy on the disposal into the seabed of high-level radioactive waste in preparation for a meeting of the parties to the London Dumping Convention 20-24 February. It was agreed that the position espoused at the meeting of legal experts in December would continue to guide the US delegation, i.e., if disposal of such waste is feasible, the London Dumping Convention is the proper vehicle for controlling the activity. [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Meetings of the Antarctic Policy Group and Interagency  
Group on Oceans Policy and Law of the Sea

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OGI/GD:  (12Jan83)

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